

# Leader Link

Volume 6

Arthritis Foundation Utah/Idaho Chapter

Winter 2008

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448 East 400 South  
Suite 103  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
[www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)  
Phone: 801-536-0990  
Toll-free: 800-444-4993

## The Arthritis Foundation's Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

The Arthritis Foundation or as it was formerly known, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, all began in 1948 with headquarters in Atlanta. A small group of the general public and physicians sought to eliminate arthritis and decrease its affects on the lives of the American people.

The Arthritis Foundation has made great progress towards its original goals. John H. Klippel, M.D., CEO of the Atlanta-based health organization pointed out that "In 1948, we were just beginning to learn about the role of the immune system in causing joint inflammation and damage in diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile arthritis and knew virtually nothing about the genetic links to diseases like osteoarthritis. The idea of replacing entire joints, now a routine procedure with more than 600,000 total knee and hip replacements done each year, was once more science fiction than science."

The Arthritis Foundation has experienced numerous milestones in the past 60 years. The following list just highlights a few of these significant moments.

- 1950 - Nobel Prize awarded to Edward Kendall, MD, Philip Hench, MD and



The Foundation's first employees in Atlanta Georgia.

Thadeus Reichstein, MD, for investigations of the hormone cortisone in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

- 1968 - Dr. David MacIntosh pioneers knee replacement surgery.
- 1974 - Congress passes the National Arthritis Act, which legislates funding for development of comprehensive arthritis care centers, assistance for medical schools and establishment of a national commission to develop long-range plans related to arthritis.
- 1986 - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) is established.
- 1998 - FDA approved the first biologic (TNF inhibitor) for the treatment of RA.
- 2000 - The first ever national arthritis objectives included in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010.

To add to this list, during the past 60 years, the Arthritis Foundation has funded over \$397 million towards arthritis research.

From humble beginnings, the Arthritis Foundation has grown to 43 local offices nationwide, with thousands of members, hundreds of program services and fund-raising events and millions of dollars in support.

Behind all of our thriving programs are great leaders. During this year, as we celebrate the Arthritis Foundation's 60 years, we also celebrate and recognize your efforts as leaders in making this organization and its programs a success.

## Save the Date: Arthritis Walk

### Salt Lake City

Date: Saturday, June 7th

Registration: 8:30 am

Start Time: 10:00am.

Location: Wheeler Farm  
6351 S. 900 E.



As arthritis continues to soar in the US, advances made in 2007 provide the groundwork for improving the lives of 46 million adults who live with the disease.



### Support those with Arthritis

Join us for our annual Arthritis Walk, and support the men, women and children in your community who live with arthritis. Recruit friends and family members to form a team or walk in honor of a loved one with arthritis and know you're making a difference by raising funds to support Arthritis Foundation research, public health and public policy efforts to improve the lives of people with arthritis.



### Walk Highlights

- Choose from a three-mile or one-mile walk route
- Write an inspirational message on the Wall of Heroes
- Wear a blue "hero" hat if you have arthritis
- Enjoy the fun, festivities and free health information

To register call our chapter office or log on to:

[www.arthritis.org/chapters/utah-idaho/](http://www.arthritis.org/chapters/utah-idaho/)

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## The Arthritis Foundation's Top Arthritis Events of 2007

1. Passage of FDA Legislation on Drug Regulation and Safety
2. Quantification of Work Limitation and Earnings Losses
3. Projections of Increases in Doctor-Diagnosed Arthritis and Arthritis-Attributable Activity Limitation
4. Identification of RA Susceptibility Genes *STAT4* and *TRAF1-C5*
5. Uncovering the Importance of Cadherin-11
6. Development of a Woven Mesh for Cartilage Engineering
7. Approval of *Lyrica* for Treatment of Fibromyalgia
8. Availability of NIH's Osteoarthritis Data and Images
9. Quantification of Children with Arthritis and Number of Doctors Needed
10. Evidence of Benefit and Safety of Biologic Therapy in Children

For the full research update visit [www.arthritis.org/top-10-2007.php](http://www.arthritis.org/top-10-2007.php)

## Advocacy Summit

We look forward to this year's annual Advocacy and Kids' Summit, which brings together advocates, young and old, from across the country to meet with their Members of Congress.

Advocates will:

- Learn firsthand about our priority advocacy issues;
- Meet face-to-face with your Members of Congress and educate them about arthritis and its devastating effects on the 46 million people with the disease, their families, and our country's economy.
- Let Congress know more needs to be done for people with arthritis.

As leaders, it's important for you to be advocates for arthritis issues. We recognize that many of you already have signed on to be part of our Advocacy Network and all of you serve the arthritis community. We really encourage all Program Leaders to be official Arthritis Advocates. Read below "Grassroots Advocacy" to learn how to become an Arthritis Advocate.



## Virtual Summit



**For those who can not attend the Advocacy Summit in person check out the Virtual Summit.**

Starting Monday, February 25, Advocates nationwide can "visit" their Members of Congress at the same time 360 of their fellow volunteers and Arthritis Foundation staff will be walking the halls of Congress.

This year, we're proud to introduce what we like to call Virtual Summit 2.0 – reaching out to our Members of Congress in a whole new way. Starting this year, not only will you be able to send a letter to your Members of Congress, but also send yourself. Building on your ability to personalize messages we provide you via the Virtual Summit, you will be able to attach a picture of yourself – or even send a video message – to Members and their staff. So, technically, you will be making a personal visit to Congress via the internet.

For all the details visit: [www.arthritis.org/virtual-summit.php](http://www.arthritis.org/virtual-summit.php)

## Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots advocacy is individuals committed to influencing positive changes in their lives, their communities and in their elected governments by making their personal stories and opinions known.

Getting involved means calling, writing a letter, sending an email, or even visiting your elected representatives who serve you in Washington, DC, and in your state.

**Sign-up to be an Arthritis Advocate**  
[www.arthritis.org/inside-advocacy.php](http://www.arthritis.org/inside-advocacy.php)  
 or call the Arthritis Foundation Chapter office at  
 1-800-444-4993.

